



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEACH ADVISORY:
Public advised to avoid areas of Kualoa Beach Park
due to high bacteria levels**

The Department of Health's Clean Water Branch is advising the public to stay out of the water fronting the first restroom at Kualoa Beach Park in windward Oahu until warning signs are removed. A portion of Kualoa Beach Park will be posted today due to high levels of bacteria along the shoreline. The Clean Water Branch will continue to sample and monitor the situation. When bacteria levels return to normal, the warning signs will be removed.

Results from water samples collected on the shore fronting the first restroom at Kualoa Beach Park exceeded Department of Health Beach Standards. Between the restroom and the shoreline is a leach field that services the restroom and adjacent shower area. Analysis of past data indicate that high levels of enterococci bacteria occur during high tides greater than 2.3 feet, heavy rains, or three day weekends when recreational use is high. Bacterial levels during the month of November averaged higher than acceptable levels for beach standards, requiring further monitoring of the area.

Enterococci bacteria are used as indicator bacteria. Enterococci are closely associated with human viruses and pathogens that are harmful to human beings. Because the Department cannot feasibly test for all the human viruses and pathogens, indicator bacteria approved by the EPA is used to determine if the water is safe or not.

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